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ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5651

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PROP, UR, AF, IN

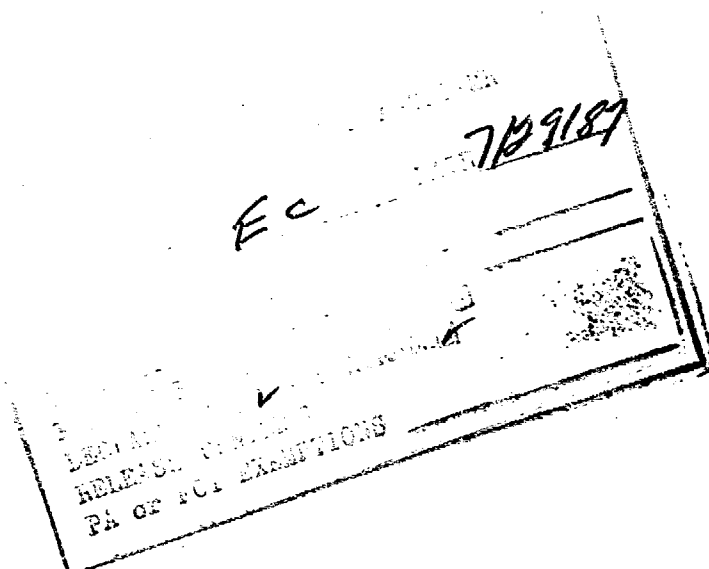
SUBJECT: ALLEGED GHANDI QUOTE CRITICAL OF SOVIET PARTIAL
"WITHDRAWAL" FROM AFGHANISTAN

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED A REPORT THAT LA STAMPA IN ITS
NOVEMBER 6 ISSUE QUOTES PRIME MINISTER RAZHIV GHANDI
AS CHARACTERIZING THE PARTIAL SOVIET "WITHDRAWAL" FROM
AFGHANISTAN AS "TOTALLY FABRICATED." THE QUOTE REPORTEDLY
EMERGED FROM A NOVEMBER 5 INTERVIEW GRANTED TO A LA STAMPA
REPORTER BY GHANDI IN NEW DELHI.

2. REQUEST AMEMBASSY ROME CHECK THE NOVEMBER 6 ISSUE OF
LA STAMPA AND PROVIDE US TEXT OF THE GHANDI REMARK, IF
IT EXISTS, AND CONTEXT.

3. MOSCOW MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. MCWILLIAMS

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